

ZOOLOGICAL NOTES.

NOTE ON AN *OLIGODON (SUBPUNCTATUS?)* FOUND AT DAHANU, NORTH KONKAN, MARCH 1886.

BY MR. G. VIDAL, C.S.

Description.—Length $11\frac{1}{2}$. Scales 17. Upper labials 8 (4, 5, 6 entering orbit) Minute black spots on the dorsal line about every third scale *not* white edged.

A lateral streak of minute black specks.

Scuta black spotted on each side.

This specimen agrees with the description of *Subpunctatus* (D et B), except that the scales are in 17 rows and not 15, and that the dorsal spots are plain and not white edged.

In the number of rows of scales it agrees with *Spini punctatus* (Tan), but the latter, according to the description, has 9 upper labials and no ventral dots.

G. VIDAL.

PTEROPUS EDWARDSII.—One of the 21st of May, one of the hottest days, I suppose, that man has endured on this side of India, I was at Belapur near Panvel, and at about 1 o'clock in the day I came upon several trees covered with Flying Foxes, all wideawake and *fanning themselves* hard with one wing. Some used the right wing and some the left, but not one was at rest. More than a hundred wings waving at once produced a very striking effect, and I cannot think that the habit, if at all general, can have altogether escaped notice. I am curious to know if anyone else has observed it.

E. H. AITKEN.

WHITE-ANTS.—The following seems worth noting. I have heard of similar cases, but this is the first that has come under my own observation. One of the windows of the travellers' bungalow at Panvel had been attacked by white-ants, when it was opened and left open for two days, thus cutting them off from their base of operations. Instead of working along to the side of the window and going down by the frame, they had made an earthen pipe, three inches long, to connect the window with the sill below. The pipe was perfectly straight, like a mill chimney, and very thin, just wide enough to allow passage for one ant at a time; so they must have had some arrangement for obtaining "line clear" before entering at either end. White-ants being blind, it is an interesting question by what sense they assured themselves when they commenced their pipe that they were not working out into space.

E. H. AITKEN.

Editor's Note.—A chest of drawers was removed about 4 or 5 inches away from a wall. The feet of the chest were inserted in saucers of turmeric powder, and the contents were considered safe. But on opening one drawer after a time, it was found full of white-ants. On looking behind the chest, there was discovered a track leading up the wall to a level with the drawer, and then a bridge consisting of a single pipe was thrown across and the drawer entered.

R. A. S.